

## RECOVERY FUNDS AT WORK IN OHIO'S SIXTH DISTRICT

### **Wilson Announces Recovery Investment to Expand Broadband Access in Appalachia Plan to Directly Benefit Athens and Columbiana Counties**

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"Expanding broadband in our area is key to expanding small businesses and creating jobs," Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) said. "This broadband investment in Appalachian Ohio is a big payoff from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. It will help us bridge the technological gap that currently divides many in our area from the rest of the world. The grant will not only connect households and businesses, but help schools, hospitals, libraries and local public safety agencies to the information superhighway," Wilson said.

ACCEL plans to directly assist more than 6,000 disadvantaged Appalachian households become broadband-connected. This effort will also create at least 21 jobs.

"In a globalized 21st century economy, when you don't have regular access to the Internet, you don't have access to all the educational and employment opportunities it provides. Fast, reliable Internet can help keep communities safer, open doors for small businesses and provide job training and skills to more Americans," U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said. "Over the long-term, enabling our people to create new products and new ways of doing business will help communities throughout the country get onto a sustainable growth path, and that's what the Recovery Act is all about."

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), funded by the Recovery Act, provides grants to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, and encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.